

Re. : Amendment and Response to Office Action Mailed September 12, 2006
Appl. No. : 10/669,740
Filed : September 24, 2003

II. REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12-16 were previously pending in the application and the Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12-16. By the foregoing amendments, Applicants amended Claims 1, 10 and 13 to further clarify, more clearly define and/or broaden the claimed invention, and expedite receiving a notice of allowance. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(f), no new matter is introduced by these amendments. Applicants believe that Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12-16 are now in condition for allowance.

Please note that Applicants' remarks are presented in the order in which the issues were raised in the Office Action for the convenience and reference of the Examiner. In addition, Applicants request that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicants' discussion and understanding of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's. Further, the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any particular reference and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and that reference.

A. Response to the Section 112 Rejection

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Office Action stated that Claim 1 recites the limitation "the center section of the first support member" in line 22 and there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim; Claim 1 recites the limitation "the

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center section of the second support member” in line 23 and there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim; Claim 9 recites the limitation “the center section of the first support member” in line 2 and there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim; and Claim 9 recites the limitation “the center section of the second support member” in line 3 and there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for his careful review of the application. As set forth above, Applicant amended Claims 1 and 9 to provide proper antecedent basis under Section 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants request that this Section 112 rejection be withdrawn.

B. Response to the Section 103(a) Rejection

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0233967 to Lin. The Office Action stated that the Lin publication teaches a table (1) with a table top; the table top having a top surface and a bottom surface; a mounting structure (12) centrally disposed on the bottom surface; and the mounting structure (12) including a first generally c-shaped portion (A', I', K') including a center section (A') that is defined by the grooves (13) and a second generally c-shaped portion (B', J', L') including a center section (B') defined by the grooves (13). The Office Action also stated that the Lin publication teaches a support assembly (26, 27) that is partially connected to the mounting structure (12); the support assembly comprises a first elongated support member (E') attached to the first portion (A') of the first generally c-shaped portion (A', I', K') of the mounting structure (12) and a spaced apart second elongated support member (F') attached to the

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center portion (B') of the second generally c-shaped portion (B', J', L') of the mounting structure (12). Additionally, the Office Action stated the Lin publication teaches a first connecting member (G') connected to the first support member (E') and the second support member (F'); a frame assembly having a first leg (23) which is attached to the first end of a first support brace (25); the second end of the first support brace attached to the first connecting member (G') of the support assembly (26, 27); the mounting structure (12) comprising a pair of C-shaped mounting ridges (A', B') formed in the first portion (A', C') and the second portion (B', D') of the mounting structure (12) as seen in marked up Figure 1. The Office Action further stated the Lin publication teaches the mounting structure (12) is formed integrally with the table top; the table top is formed of blow-molded plastic; a second connecting member (H') is connected to the first support member (E') and the second support member (F'); a second leg (23) is movable between a use position and a storage position; a second support brace (25) includes a first portion and a second portion; and the first portion is attached to the second leg (23) and the second portion is attached to the second connecting member (H'') of the support assembly (26, 27).

The Office Action acknowledged that the Lin publication does not expressly disclose a first and second connecting member connected to a center section of the first support member and a center section of the second support member, and first and second openings in the first and second elongated support members to allow for the connection of the first and second connecting members. The Office Action states that, as seen in Figure 1, the first and second connecting members are connected to the ends of the first and second support members. The Office Action contends that at the time of the invention it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the table of Lin by making the connecting members shorter and the

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support members longer since applicant has not disclosed that having the first and second connecting member connected to a center section of the first support member and a center section of the second support member solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the support assembly would perform equally well with the first and second connecting members are connected to the centers of the first and second support members since it is functionally equivalent and works equally well.

The Office Action also contended that as ascertained from Figures 1-3, it appears that openings on the connecting members receive the elongated support members. The Office Action concluded that it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the support assembly of Lin by having the openings on the elongated support members to receive the connecting members since Applicant has not disclosed that having the openings on the elongated support members solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the support assembly would perform equally well with the openings on the elongated support members to receive the connecting members since it is functionally equivalent and works equally well.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the Lin publication patent fails to teach, suggest or disclose each and every limitation of Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12-16. Nevertheless, as mentioned above, in order to further clarify, more clearly define and/or broaden the claimed invention, and expedite receiving a notice of allowance, Applicants amended Claims 1, 10 and 13

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Claim 1

Applicants amended Claim 1, *inter alia*, to provide “a mounting structure centrally disposed on the bottom surface of the table top, the mounting structure including a first generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section with a first end and a second end, a first end portion connected to the first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to the second end of the elongated central portion, and a second generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section with a first end and a second end, a first end portion connected to the first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to the second end of the elongated central portion; a central box-like region disposed in the bottom surface of the table top and being defined by the elongated center sections, the first end portions and the second end portions of the first and second generally C-shaped portions.”

Thus, Claim 1 now positively recites the mounting structure includes a first generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section with a first end and a second end, a first end portion connected to the first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to the second end of the elongated central portion, and a second generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section with a first end and a second end, a first end portion connected to the first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to the second end of the elongated central portion. In addition, Claim 1 now positively recites a central box-like region is disposed in the bottom surface of the table top and defined by the elongated center sections, the first end portions and the second end portions of the first and second generally C-shaped portions.

The Lin publication, however, does not teach, suggest or disclose, for example, a

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mounting structure including a first generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section with a first end and a second end, a first end portion connected to the first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to the second end of the elongated central portion, and a second generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section with a first end and a second end, a first end portion connected to the first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to the second end of the elongated central portion. The Lin publication also does not teach, suggest or disclose a central box-like region disposed in the bottom surface of the table top and defined by the elongated center sections, the first end portions and the second end portions of the first and second generally C-shaped portions.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is allowable and request that this Section 103(a) rejection be withdrawn. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of dependent Claims 2, 5-7 and 9 be withdrawn at least because these claims are dependent upon amended Claim 1.

Claim 10

Applicants amended Claim 10, *inter alia*, to provide “a mounting structure formed in the bottom surface of the table top, the mounting structure comprising: a first generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section, a first end portion connected to a first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to a second end of the elongated central portion; a second generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section, a first end portion connected to a first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion

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connected to a second end of the elongated central portion; and a central box-like region disposed in the bottom surface of the table top and defined by the elongated center sections, the first end portions and the second end portions of the first and second generally C-shaped portions.”

Thus, Claim 10 now positively recites the mounting structure is formed in the bottom surface of the table top and comprises: a first generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section, a first end portion connected to a first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to a second end of the elongated central portion; a second generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section, a first end portion connected to a first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to a second end of the elongated central portion; and a central box-like region disposed in the bottom surface of the table top and defined by the elongated center sections, the first end portions and the second end portions of the first and second generally C-shaped portions.

The Lin publication, however, does not teach, suggest or disclose, for example, a mounting structure formed in the bottom surface of the table top and comprising: a first generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section, a first end portion connected to a first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to a second end of the elongated central portion; a second generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section, a first end portion connected to a first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to a second end of the elongated central portion; and a central box-like region disposed in the bottom surface of the table top and defined by the elongated center

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sections, the first end portions and the second end portions of the first and second generally C-shaped portions.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 is allowable and request that this Section 103(a) rejection be withdrawn. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of dependent Claim 12 be withdrawn at least because this claim is dependent upon amended Claim 10.

Claim 13

Applicants amended Claim 13, *inter alia*, to provide "a mounting structure formed in the bottom surface of the table top, the mounting structure comprising: a first generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section, a first end portion connected to a first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to a second end of the elongated central portion; a second generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section, a first end portion connected to a first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to a second end of the elongated central portion; and a central box-like region disposed in the bottom surface of the table top and defined by the elongated center sections, the first end portions and the second end portions of the first and second generally C-shaped portions."

Thus, Claim 13 now positively recites the mounting structure is formed in the bottom surface of the table top and comprises: a first generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section, a first end portion connected to a first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to a second end of the elongated central

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portion; a second generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section, a first end portion connected to a first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to a second end of the elongated central portion; and a central box-like region disposed in the bottom surface of the table top and defined by the elongated center sections, the first end portions and the second end portions of the first and second generally C-shaped portions.

The Lin publication, however, does not teach, suggest or disclose, for example, a mounting structure formed in the bottom surface of the table top and comprising: a first generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section, a first end portion connected to a first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to a second end of the elongated central portion; a second generally C-shaped portion including an elongated center section, a first end portion connected to a first end of the elongated central portion and a second end portion connected to a second end of the elongated central portion; and a central box-like region disposed in the bottom surface of the table top and defined by the elongated center sections, the first end portions and the second end portions of the first and second generally C-shaped portions.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 13 is allowable and request that this Section 103(a) rejection be withdrawn. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of dependent Claims 14-16 be withdrawn at least because these claims are dependent upon amended Claim 13.

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CONCLUSION

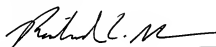
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12-16 are allowable over the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that a Notice of Allowance be promptly issued.

If any further impediments to allowance of this application remain, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone so that these remaining issues may be promptly resolved.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, which have not otherwise been paid, to Deposit Account No. 23-3178. If any additional extension of time is required, which have not otherwise been requested, please consider this a petition therefore and charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-3178.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 12, 2007

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